

Message Text

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60

ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4500

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU

DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS BANGKOK 9265

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR TH CB

SUBJ: CHATCHAI ON THE THAI-KHMER CONFRONTATION ALONG THE BORDER
IN TRAT PROVINCE

REF: BANGKOK 9072

FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE MAY 19.
FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL USIS TRANSLATION OF HIS REMARKS ON THE
THAI-KHMER CONFRONTATION ALONG THE BORDER IN TRAT PROVINCE.

BEGIN EXERPT:

CHATCHAI: BEFORE MAKING A STATEMENT ON NEGOTIATIONS HELD WITH
SOUTH VIETNAM, I WISH TO INFORM YOU FIRST OF SOME OTHER MATTERS.

FIRST, WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY CAMBODIAN OFFICIAL NEWS-
CASTS THAT CAMBODIA HAS NOT DEMANDED THAT BORDER MARKINGS BE MOVED
ONE KILOMETER INSIDE THAI TERRITORY. CAMBODIA HAS DENIED THAT NEWS
REPORT, THEN IT STATED IT IS READY TO HAVE FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH
THAILAND. THIS IS GOOD NEWS AND WE HAVE ISSUED A STATEMENT STAT-
ING WE ARE GLAD TO HAVE RECEIVED THIS REPORT FROM CAMBODIA, DI-
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RECTLY FROM THE CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT. THEN WE WENT ON TO SAY THAT

WE CONSIDER THAT NORMAL RELATIONS OF AMITY SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED AS IN THE PAST, AND THIS SHOULD PAVE THE WAY FOR OUR COMMON BORDER TO BE REOPENED. THIS CAN BE CONSIDERED GOOD NEWS WE HAVE RECEIVED CONCERNING CAMBODIA.

REPORTER: IN REGARD TO CAMBODIA, HOW WILL YOU SEND OUR STATEMENT TO IT?

CHATCHAI: IT SENT ITS STATEMENT OVER RADIO, SO WE WILL ANSWER IT BY RADIO.

PRACHA: IT SENT ITS STATEMENT OVER THE RED CAMBODIAN RADIO. WE WILL SEND OUR ANSWER OVER RADIO FREE ASIA OR ONE OF OUR RADIO STATIONS.

CHATCHAI: THIS WAS WHAT IT STATED: "THE NEW CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT HAS EXTENDED AN OFFER OF FRIENDSHIP TO THAILAND, DENYING REPORTS THAT IT IS DEMANDING THAT THE THAI BORDER WITH CAMBODIA BE PUSHED BACK ONE KILOMETER." THIS SHOWS CLEARLY THAT THERE IS NO FURTHER PROBLEM IN REGARD TO PUSHING BACK BORDER DEMARCATIONS, A SUBJECT ON WHICH THERE ARE DISPUTES AND ARGUMENTS ON VARIOUS BORDERS.
WHITEHOUSE

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